



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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May 29, 2003

MUSKY CLUBS ALLIANCE OF WISCONSIN, INC
Larry Slagoski, President
7201 TROTZER LANE
Schofield, WI 54476

Subject: Letter of Agreement

Dear Larry:

Thanks for meeting with Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection staff (DNR) (Steve Hewett, Al Kaas, Tim Simonson, and Patrick Schmalz) on February 28, 2003 regarding your concerns with stocking muskellunge in northern Wisconsin. I understand it was a productive meeting in which several specific topics were discussed and several points of agreement were reached. In an effort to clearly document these points of agreement, I have summarized our understanding of the outcome of the meeting below. Please review these points of agreement and get back to me with any changes or corrections.

Whereas both organizations agree on the overall goal of making muskellunge fishing in Wisconsin better, and;

Whereas mutual cooperation on actions intended to further that goal will benefit all the muskellunge anglers of Wisconsin and will make the most efficient use of limited resources;

Therefore, the following actions, intended to make muskellunge fishing better in Wisconsin, are agreed to by both organizations:

- 1) Musky Clubs Alliance (MCA) agrees to stock muskellunge at the prescribed levels in the following waters of Oneida, and Vilas Counties. The Department agrees to issue stocking permits for these waters to the Musky Clubs Alliance and to enter them into our statewide propagation database as "Musky Clubs Alliance" quotas. Adoption of these quotas by the Musky Clubs Alliance will allow the Department to stock in other waters, thereby improving the overall quality of fisheries dependent upon stocking. Ideally, these would be long-term commitments to stock the specific lakes on a regular basis:

County	Lake Name	Acres	Musky Class	Cat.	Current Quota	Quota - Odd Years	Quota - Even years
ONEIDA	BURROWS LAKE	156	B	0	0	156	0
ONEIDA	EMMA LAKE	223	B	2	0	223	0
ONEIDA	FRANKLIN LAKE	161	C	0	0	0	161
ONEIDA	JULIA LAKE	238	B	2	0	238	0
ONEIDA	MILDRED LAKE	191	B	0	0	0	191
VILAS	LAURA LAKE	599	A1	2	299	299	0
Total						916	252

- 2) The Department further agrees to develop a more complete statewide list of waters in need of stocking by external organizations that would either 1) provide stocking in waters that are not otherwise stocked by the Department due to production limitations and higher priorities; or 2) replace the Department's quota, thus freeing up the fish to stock in other waters. Once the list is developed, the Musky Clubs Alliance agrees to work with the Department by designating the waters they intend to stock one year in advance of stocking so that their anticipated quotas can be incorporated into the Department's production plan. MCA will encourage member clubs to adopt lake stocking projects as recommended by DNR. The above list will be reviewed annually.
- 3) The Department agrees to acknowledge contributions to the propagation program from the Musky Clubs Alliance and to use these contributions to produce and stock muskellunge in Vilas and Oneida Counties, as well as in other muskellunge waters statewide. These contributions, provided by the Musky Clubs Alliance via a gift account to specified hatcheries, will be used to support and enhance the Department's efforts to produce and stock muskellunge. The Musky Clubs Alliance may report to member-clubs and the public the waters stocked and the number of muskellunge stocked by the Department (from the specified hatchery) as waters that were stocked in partnership with the Musky Clubs Alliance.
- 4) The Department agrees to develop a list of specific needs that, if met, would support and enhance the ability to produce and stock muskellunge in Wisconsin. The list may include one-time purchases for pond renovations, tanks, predator barrier systems, etc. Any contributions from the Musky Clubs Alliance will be duly acknowledged by the Department. The list of specific needs will be maintained on the Department's web site and will be available for review by the Musky Clubs Alliance and other external partners.
- 5) The Department agrees to provide a link to the Musky Clubs Alliance web site on the existing "Fishing Wisconsin - Muskellunge" home page. The Musky Clubs Alliance agrees to provide a link on their web site to the Department's "Fishing Wisconsin - Muskellunge" home page.
- 6) The Department agrees to support the Musky Clubs Alliance in their efforts by providing responses to specific requests for information and by providing hand outs for the Musky

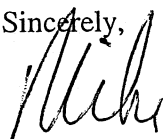
Clubs Alliance and their member clubs to copy and distribute. The topics and content of the information sheets will be mutually agreed upon by both organizations before distribution.

- 7) The Department agrees to keep the Musky Clubs Alliance abreast of current issues and proposals related to muskellunge management in Wisconsin, and to include them in the development of specific management proposals. The Musky Clubs Alliance agrees to participate in the development of specific management proposals and to keep their member clubs and all their members informed and engaged in the process as new management proposals are developed.
- 8) DNR and MCA agree to discuss the future possibility of hybrid musky stocking throughout Wisconsin.

As I see it, this agreement should be used to forge a blueprint for the future of our joint efforts to improve muskellunge fishing in Wisconsin.

I want to thank you for all your past cooperative work with the Department. We - and the anglers of this state - greatly appreciate your efforts. I look forward to continuing to work with you on projects that will benefit Wisconsin's fisheries. If you have any additions or corrections, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Mike Staggs, Director
Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection

tds

cc: The Honorable Scott Gunderson
Scott Hassett, Secretary
Steve Hewett, FH/3
Al Kaas, FH/3
Tim Simonson, FH/3
Patrick Schmalz, FH/3

*Thanks for all
your help Larry!*